

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
MEDICAL PERSONNEL OF THE
KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY FOR
QUELLING THE EPIDEMIC CRISIS
IN THE CAPITAL CITY**

Speech to the Combatants of the
Korean People's Army Medical Corps
August 18, Juche 111 (2022)

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
MEDICAL PERSONNEL OF THE
KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY FOR
QUELLING THE EPIDEMIC CRISIS
IN THE CAPITAL CITY**

Speech to the Combatants of the
Korean People's Army Medical Corps
August 18, Juche 111 (2022)

Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)

Courageous combatants of the army medical corps who battled so bravely in the anti-epidemic campaign in the capital city,

We have gathered here today not to review any work or announce any special tasks.

I just wanted to meet you in person after you went to pains so much greater than anyone else, and to commend you highly and pose for a souvenir photograph with you.

After I received the report that you had left the streets of the capital city with the epidemic crisis over, I don't know why, but for several days I felt something was lacking and was reminded of you constantly; I could not help feeling that I had failed to do something for you.

Moreover, after hearing that thousands of you had left silently in the dead of night and at dawn without any formal farewell ceremony so as not to impose on the citizens, I became more aware than ever of how faithful you are to your duty as soldiers in the army of the Party and the people, and I felt even more desirous of doing something for you.

The true appraisal of for whom you fought, and

how, was fully expressed in the hot tears glistening in the eyes of the people as they sent you off when you were leaving virtually unnoticed after accomplishing your combat mission.

Such a sincere appraisal by the people is priceless. It cannot be bought, no matter how much money is offered, and it is the highest commendation for the soldiers of a revolutionary army.

I ordered you to gather today so that I could meet you and encourage you, just as the citizens of the capital city, who it is said could not suppress their sense of regret on hearing belatedly of your departure, would like to. By commending you highly once again, I want to make sure that your efforts and feats are known across the country.

Combatants of the army medical corps,

I should already have arranged such a gathering as this, and I am very sorry that I failed to do so.

Defending the people at the risk of your lives is your natural duty. Yet, for me, your health and safety are part of my flesh and blood—something I must not lose. So, I felt anxious about you when you came into direct contact with the virus throughout the battle against the epidemic.

So, my pleasure is beyond description at seeing you

all, who defended the anti-epidemic front in the capital city, healthy and full of life.

Before I extend my congratulations to you on the victory in the battle against the epidemic, I would like to thank you for ending the crisis and remaining as healthy as you are.

Comrades, you truly fought well.

On behalf of the Party, the country and the people, I extend to you a warm thank-you.

As the recent National Meeting of Reviewing the Emergency Anti-Epidemic Work noted in recognizing your achievements, you worked extremely hard in the 91-day campaign to defend the capital city and the people, demonstrating devoted efforts and unbending conviction and courage.

The area of the capital city where you fought was the crucial, central combat zone where success or failure in the national anti-epidemic struggle was decided.

I still remember the moment when I signed the order to deploy you to the capital city's anti-epidemic front in the time of emergency.

As I stand here face to face with you today, I vividly remember the feelings I had at that time: on the nights of May 14 and 15, when I suppressed with

enormous difficulty my painful emotions at seeing the quiet, empty streets, as if the whole country, including the capital city, had been evacuated after the declaration of the highest national emergency level in the wake of the sudden spread of the epidemic nationwide; during the heart-breaking moments when all I could do was simply gaze at people standing in long queues outside pharmacies because medicine supplies were not meeting demand following the first-ever public health crisis; the times when I received the daily situation report on the exponential spread of the disease; and the days when, at the most difficult moments, I resolved to place the whole of my mind, my complete trust and my destiny in the hands of our army.

On May 15, the fourth day after the state epidemic prevention system was switched to the highest emergency crisis response level to cope with the crisis facing the country, the Political Bureau of our Party Central Committee and the Party Central Military Commission analyzed the public health situation in the country and adopted a series of comprehensive key decisions for resolutely combating the spread of the malignant disease. As one of these crucial measures, they called on you, combatants of the army medical

corps, to join the fight to defend the capital city.

Throughout the whole course of the battle to defuse this public health emergency, through your committed efforts you demonstrated to a greater extent than the Party had expected of you, the unyielding spirit and invincible fighting effectiveness of our army and the ennobling traits and admirable honour of the army of the Party.

Looking back, the campaign conducted by the People's Army to defend the capital city was truly a ten-out-of-ten operation from beginning to end, which left nothing to be desired.

When the country was facing a critical situation, the battle-trained combatants of the army medical corps were deployed to the front line; this fact alone was highly significant both in infusing confidence into the emergency anti-epidemic climate across the country and encouraging the people who were worried about the spread of the fever, and in turning the tide in the anti-epidemic campaign.

As a matter of fact, but for you the recent highest-level emergency anti-epidemic campaign might have been even more arduous and challenging.

The capital city should have been the centre and last stronghold in the national crisis management, yet

its anti-epidemic situation was the most severe. At the time, state organs, not to mention the capital city's Party organization, failed to respond and, given the situation, our Party Central Committee had no choice other than to turn to the army medical corps.

You clearly proved through your self-sacrificing efforts and struggle that the Party Central Committee was right in its decision to immediately deploy the army's elite medical corps to supply medicines in the capital city, which was the pivotal factor in the emergency anti-epidemic war, and that its trust and expectations were not in vain.

Because this was the first crisis of its kind, everybody was deeply concerned. At that moment, you displayed your characteristic courage and self-sacrificing spirit that is founded on the exceptional loyalty of our service personnel who know best the true heart of their Commander-in-Chief and never hesitate to follow his orders.

You combatants had no experience of supplying medicines promptly to all sections of society—men and women, young and old—and of treating them. Yet, by being absolutely faithful to the order of the Party Central Committee and in the spirit of unconditional love for and devotion to the people, you performed

laudable feats with an attention to detail, prudence and sincerity the like of which is unthinkable even to the professional medical workers at pharmacies.

You were much more than mere medical workers in military uniform.

Revolutionary fighters who are boundlessly faithful to our Party, and the people's children and siblings—this was the true image of you that became deeply ingrained in the minds of the citizens of Pyongyang in the course of the sacred 91-day campaign.

You were dispatched to the pharmacies in the capital city on a mission to stabilize the transport and supply of medicines, but more than that you all strove to the utmost to safeguard the people's lives and health.

Every one of you suffered unimaginable physical and mental fatigue while performing your duties 24-7, but you regarded it as your obligation to provide sincere and devoted service, even running in the fierce heat to seek out families that were in need of medicines and make regular calls on fever patients on your list until they achieved a full recovery.

Some of you visited the homes of war veterans, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and merited people, bringing with you tonics you had obtained to aid their

recovery along with anti-epidemic medicines; some others transfused their own blood into patients who were in critical condition and reopened their airway with their own mouth; still others did not hesitate to distribute staple and subsidiary foods among families in need of help by taking from their own field rations or donating money their parents had sent them. All your deeds moved the hearts of the people.

Yet there is something I think more laudable than all this: It is the overflowing sincerity our army invariably demonstrated in dealing with and treating people.

It is not simply because they received medicines and food from the People's Army when they were sick that our people regard the soldiers as their children and siblings.

They keenly felt that the soldiers were more solicitous, more sincere and more selfless than their own family in caring for them, and so they called them unreservedly "our soldiers," "our children" and "our grandchildren" out of their feeling of gratitude.

Among the medics are some who, by dint of their lofty sense of duty, gave all their heart to the capital city's citizens while enduring their own sorrow and anxiety, having learned that misfortune, such as their parents, wives or children becoming critically ill, had

befallen their family. Also among them are officers and soldiers who, although they were suffering from illness, continued to provide devoted service until their dying breath.

These laudable deeds, which would have been impossible or inconceivable in simply responding to orders, could be achieved and explained only on the basis of the ennobling spiritual and moral traits of our army.

I will recount some more facts associated with our medics' laudable deeds.

Complaints, though not complaints in the true sense of the word, that the soldiers acted unfairly were continuously reported by the Party organizations in the capital city.

Citizens said that they warmly appreciated the medics' deeds, but regretted and were disappointed at their refusal to accept modest expressions of gratitude, saying that all they needed was water and air.

However, I think it is perfectly natural that, in the emergency anti-epidemic campaign in the capital city, you maintained the spiritual and moral discipline unique to our army that its soldiers must not under any circumstances be a burden on the people. I highly appreciate it.

Some of you even delivered medicines to families that hesitated to come to the pharmacies because some of their members had previously committed crimes against the country. In this way you ensured that they could also enjoy the benefits of our system. You did a truly great job.

You were not merely soldiers carrying out orders. Being well-versed in the intentions and policies of the Party, your political thinking was correct and your behaviour was proper. Our Party is delighted and highly satisfied that these excellent traits, the true image of an army that is strong politically and ideologically, have been reconfirmed.

The combatants responsible for transporting medicines to their supply units also did a lot of good for the people by moving essential medicines through the streets and villages of the capital city day and night.

Our army's ennobling and devoted spiritual traits can be characterized as a death-defying motive for encouraging the capital city's citizens to overcome their fear of the epidemic crisis and as an impetus for further encouraging and bringing out communist virtue and traits throughout society.

Whenever I received a report about the laudable deeds voluntarily performed by the medics and their

achievements in the emergency anti-epidemic campaign, I thought how pleased their parents and siblings would be and how proud their wives and children would be for being related to such wonderful soldiers. So, I wanted to praise and express my appreciation for you more highly.

Although in the recent battle you were not caught in a hail of bullets, the virus was threatening your lives; yet you turned out without hesitation in the fight to exterminate the virus and defend the people. You are all today's frontline medics and combat heroes.

Through your death-defying efforts, you not only demonstrated to the full the militant features of our army that implements the Party's orders come hell or high water, but also defended the precious revolutionary asset of great army-people unity, which is the foundation of our society.

You also fully demonstrated the sublime ability of our army to deal squarely with, and achieve victory in, any non-military challenges that always threaten the security of the state and the lives and property of the people, to say nothing of military conflict with the enemy.

All the combatants, ranging from generals to the other officers and soldiers, having received the special

order of the Central Military Commission of the Party, fought courageously by displaying to the utmost their loyalty to the Party and revolution, their devotion to the people and their patriotism. In this way they made a huge contribution to hastening the great victory in the anti-epidemic war. As General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic, I feel very proud and highly appreciative of this.

Combatants in the army medical corps,

You must have been deeply aware on this occasion that our Party and people expect a great deal from the People's Army, and so it is essential to improve the fighting capability of the army medical corps in both wartime and peacetime.

The importance of the army medical corps' modernization and the perfection of its combat preparedness is highlighted in fighting a war.

Our army can accomplish its strategically-important planned military tasks only when its forces are preserved in a fierce war situation; to this end, the army medical corps has a very important role to play.

True to its natural mission to preserve manpower in a war, the corps should thoroughly implement the Party's ideology and policy on military medical

science and take the lead in consolidating the defence line of the country's public health sector.

When the high sense of loyalty, the spirit of love for the people and the noble human feeling which were displayed during the recent emergency battle against the epidemic are combined with advanced medical science and technology, we will be able to cope with any medical treatment campaign and public health emergency.

Rim Chun Chu Military University of Medical Sciences, the “pedigree farm” of the People's Army's medical corps, should play a leading and pivotal role in training medics and developing military medicine. It should also hold high the banner and set an example for the whole country in overhauling overall educational work.

With the main stress on raising the standards of medical science and theory and the level of clinical skills among its teaching staff and students, it should steadily update the content, methods and means of education in conformity with modern pedagogical principles. Then it will be able to train all its students into competent field medics, skilled field medics, who can perform their role independently and ably in wartime.

In keeping with the changing war environment and global trends in military medicine, it should direct efforts to further studying and perfecting our own style of field medical treatment and modernizing medical facilities and equipment, so as to contribute actively to perfecting the combat preparedness of the army medical corps.

It should not rest content with its success in the recent highest-level emergency anti-epidemic campaign, but should promote and expand its positive experiences and eliminate or mitigate its shortcomings while further strengthening its Party work and teaching administration.

The General Political Bureau and other Party organizations at all levels of the Korean People's Army should conduct effective political work to educate the whole army in the excellent fighting spirit displayed by the medics, and to make their example widely known.

Combatants of the army medical corps,

It is a source of glory and extraordinary honour for you, medics, to have participated in the highest-level emergency anti-epidemic war and to have left such remarkable imprints in the history of our army's devoted struggle for the people.

The loyalty and patriotism, love and devotion which you recorded on every page of the chronicle of the 91-day combat will remain as an unforgettable experience for you, and will unswervingly lead your life of service for the country and people for ever.

Always mindful of the trust and expectations of the Party Central Committee, you should work tirelessly to ensure that you are fully ready politically, ideologically, technically and practically so that you can continue to leave such brilliant imprints in the future, too.

Comrades,

Victory and glory alone are in store for the KPA, our revolutionary army faithful to the Party and devoted to the people, on the militant and proud road of retaining its sacred and honourable title—an army of the people.

Through your strenuous efforts, you became honourable victors in repulsing the deadly virus and defending the anti-epidemic line of no retreat, true to the crucial order of the Party to defend, come what may, the security and safety of our state, system and people by fighting staunchly to the last drop of your blood. So, today I am going to pose with you for a photograph as a memento of the significant victory

that will be etched in the history of our Party and state.

It is, indeed, a source of glory and pride for me to wage the revolution with such loyal officers and soldiers as you.

Comrades,

For our great state,

For our great Party,

For our great people,

For our great dignity and honour,

Let us render faithful service!

KIM JONG UN

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
MEDICAL PERSONNEL OF THE
KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY FOR
QUELLING THE EPIDEMIC CRISIS
IN THE CAPITAL CITY**

Published by Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea

Issued in October Juche 111 (2022)
